

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, entry of this response, and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 13-28 are pending and at issue.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art in view of Bridgeford. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons of record and those presented below.

The critical difference between the claimed method and that disclosed in the prior art and in Bridgeford is that the two processes employ substantially different starting materials, resulting in the production of different products. In Bridgeford, the basis weight of the starting material is actually the basis weight of the total cellulose material (see the definition provided in column 3, lines 56-59). Plasticizer is then added (0-14% by weight; see column 5, line 61), and the resulting basis weight is 1-14 times the basis weight of the total cellulose material. Therefore, the basis weight of the final product ranges from 15-25 g/m².

In contrast, the basis weight referred to in the instant method is the basis weight of the paper substrate which has been wet-strengthened by resins or viscose. The basis weight of the paper substrate before wet-strengthening is no more than 14 g/m²; however, after the substrate has been treated with viscose and plasticizer the casing has a basis weight of more than 60 g/m².

Therefore, Bridgeford does not remedy the deficiencies of the "admitted" prior art. The purpose of the instant method is to provide a material with lesser weights, yet strength and substantial elasticity. The "admitted" prior art provides neither the motivation or reasonable expectation of success of achieving these goals and as discussed above, Bridgeford does not

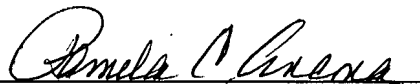
remedy this deficiency. Therefore, the Examiner has not established that the instant method is *prima facie* obvious and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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